



HISTORY OF THE
MADISON COIN
CLUB, PAGE 12



NOW NEWS

numismatics in wisconsin

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 1978



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N O W



speakers bureau

The following is a list of those who volunteered to participate in the NOW Speakers Bureau Program. Interested groups should contact these speakers directly to make the proper arrangements.

If your club does participate in the program, it is suggested that an American Numismatic Association (ANA) Educational Certificate be ordered for your guest speaker, providing, of course, that the presentation is of the quality deserving of a certificate.

Your club will be expected to provide the following courtesies for the speaker:

Contact the speaker no later than three months prior to the proposed arrangement date. Give him/her full details concerning time, place and type of program desired.

The speaker should be given an estimate of the anticipated attendance, which should be no fewer than ten.

A suitable topic will be agreed upon between the club representative and the speaker. The moderator should acquire details about the speaker and his topic for a proper introduction.

Format and length of the talk must be agreed upon and enforced. A program of 20-45 minutes duration is usually suitable or 15-20 minutes if there is to be more than one speaker.

The host club is responsible for providing suitable sound and projection equipment if necessary and reimburse the speaker for travel, meals and lodging if necessary.

Clear directions to the meeting location should also be provided to the speaker.

Persons participating in the Speakers Bureau Program are:

Clem Bailey--P.O. Box 275, Iola 54945--Malta, general.
Ken Bressett--1220 Mound Ave., Racine--Colonial America, general.

Jack Curtis--P.O. Box 547, Stevens Point--Saint Gaudens, magician tokens, Chinese coins.

Virgil Jackson--94 W. Water St., Beaver Dam--Isle of Man, type coins, China.

Floyd Jannery--P.O. Box 143, Waukesha--limited availability.

Arnold Jeffcoat--c/o Numismatic News, Iola--general.
Chet Krause--c/o Numismatic News, Iola--general, current events.

Kurt Krueger--P.O. Box 7, Kimberly--exonumia, general, Young Numismatists.

Cliff Mishler--c/o Numismatic News, Iola--general, current events.

Richard Phelps--P.O. Box 212, Sussex--coins of modern Greece, circulating tokens.

(Continued, Page 11)



Kurt R. Krueger

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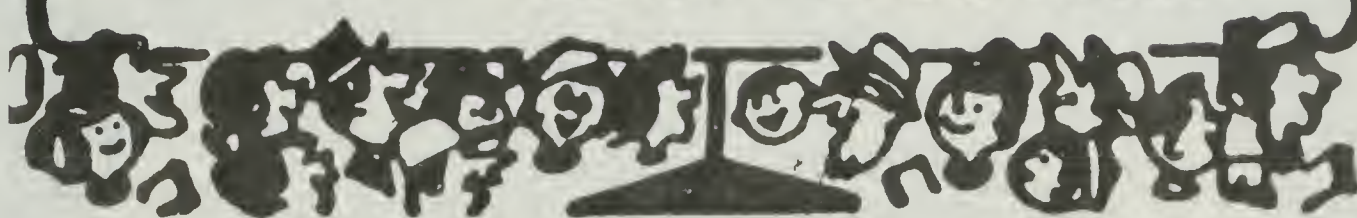
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The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin shall be to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and the coin clubs of Wisconsin, as well as collectors of other states, and to encourage and assist new collectors and coin clubs. All resources shall be used to further the above objectives.

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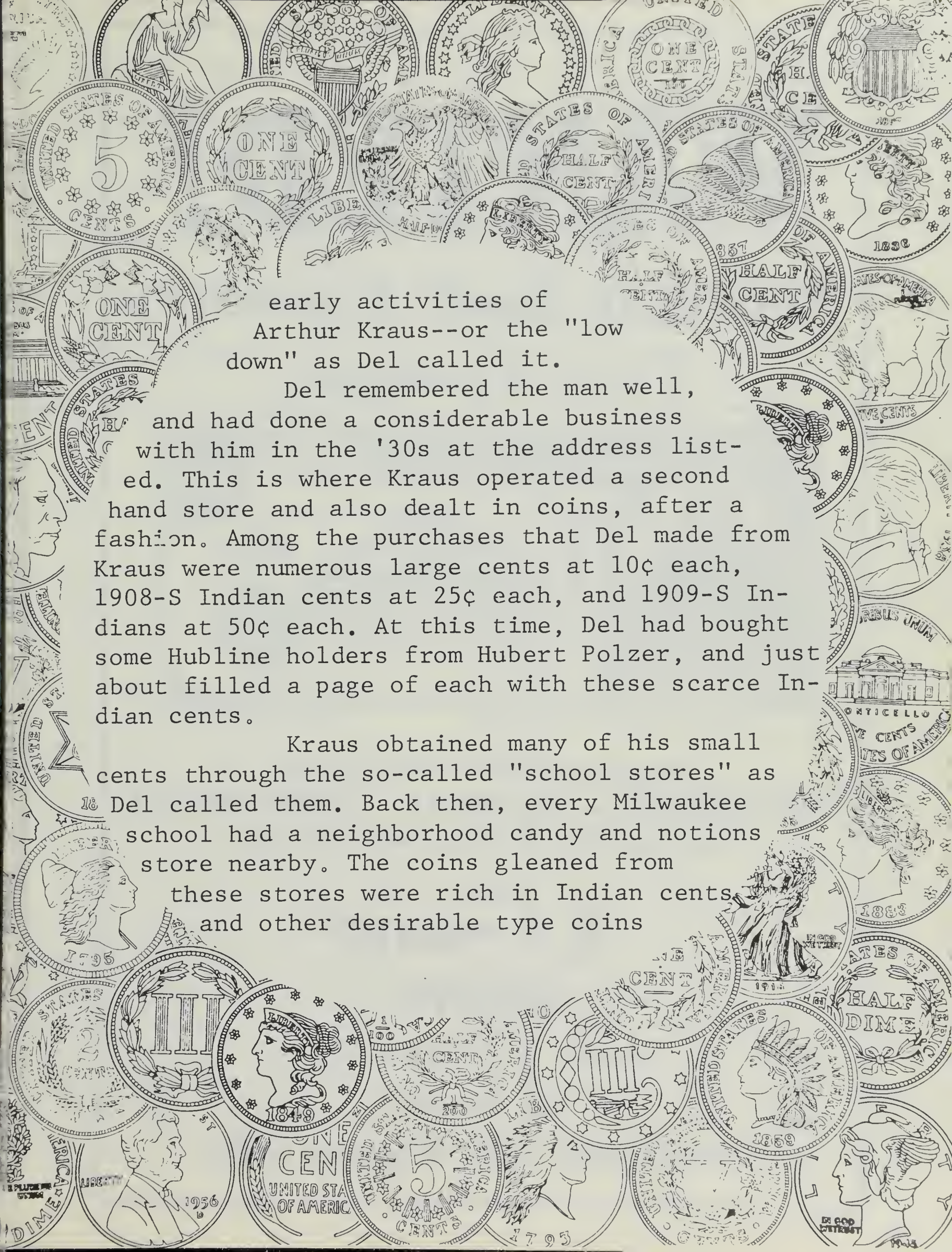
The First Edition

by Gerald Johnson, WNW

Recently, while bumming around the antique shops of northern Wisconsin, I was able to purchase several yellowed, old coin fixed price lists, among which was a venerable first edition sold by one Arthur H. Kraus of Milwaukee. The 3.25-by-5-inch booklet was labelled the "Official Premium Coin Catalog" and listed the buying prices of selected U.S. gold, silver and copper coins. The booklet was undated and at a price of 10¢--as most booklets of this type are--and listed the firm's address as 407-409 Chestnut St., Milwaukee, Wis.

Armed with this information, I attended the RCDA Show in Milwaukee, where I ran into veteran coin collector and story teller A.P. "Del" Bertschy. From him I gleaned an historical glance at the

(continued next page)



early activities of
Arthur Kraus--or the "low
down" as Del called it.

Del remembered the man well,
and had done a considerable business
with him in the '30s at the address list-
ed. This is where Kraus operated a second
hand store and also dealt in coins, after a
fashion. Among the purchases that Del made from
Kraus were numerous large cents at 10¢ each,
1908-S Indian cents at 25¢ each, and 1909-S In-
dians at 50¢ each. At this time, Del had bought
some Hubline holders from Hubert Polzer, and just
about filled a page of each with these scarce In-
dian cents.

Kraus obtained many of his small
cents through the so-called "school stores" as
16 Del called them. Back then, every Milwaukee
school had a neighborhood candy and notions
store nearby. The coins gleaned from
these stores were rich in Indian cents,
and other desirable type coins

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(From Page 4)

Russell Rulau--c/o World Coin News, Iola--world coins,
general.

Neil Shafer--1220 Mound Ave., Racine--world paper
money, Philippine coins.

Charles Opitz--12550 Pinewood Rd., Brookfield--odd and
curious (primitive) monies.

R.S. Yeoman--1220 Mound Ave., Racine--historical coins
of the world, general.

WAUSAU HOSTS SPRING SHOW

com Page 9

quandered by school children.
Kraus made regular rounds to
these stores to pick up these
coins.

Del feels that on the
large cents Kraus paid at
least two cents each in order
to retail them at a dime. What
he paid for the Indian cents
didn't amount to much over
face value. As for the 32-page
list, Kraus offers to buy 1856
Flying Eagle cents at \$1 in
fair condition, to a generous
price in fine condition. Wonder
if he ever ran into any over
the years, we know from Del
that some were rattling a-
round back then. Those were
the days!

The 14th annual Wisconsin
Valley Coin Club show was held
April 23 at the Holiday Inn on
Wausau's west side. The rainy
day contributed to a small
turnout of hobbyists and guests
who were treated to an excep-
tionally fine setting of ex-
hibits.

Exhibit winners among the
60 cases displayed were: Best
of Show to Virgil Jackson;
Senior First place winners in-
cluded Russ Klausch, Vicky
Klausch and Leo Neidenger with
two; Senior Second place win-
ners included Daisy Jackson,
Harold Helm, Tom Neidenger and
Vicky Klausch; Junior First
place winners were Randy Schenk
and John Gerritts; Junior Sec-
ond place winner was Pat Loomis.

History of the Madison Coin Club

**related by
Gordon
Gill**



PART ONE

(Editor's Note: This is the first part of a two-part series concerning the Madison Coin Club and the early collecting days of Gordon Gill. The early history of the Madison club is deeply rooted in the personal collecting experiences of A.G. (Gordon) Gill, one of the club's founding members. Gill is still extremely active in the hobby today and holds various local, state and national appointments within the hobby field and pursues this hobby with great zeal.)

The Madison Coin Club was formed in 1932, but four or five years previous to that, the Rev. Fred Harris, a Methodist minister, and I used to meet in his office at the Methodist Hospital. Later on, a couple of other fellas joined us. When the club was organized in 1932, we met in various places around the city. We never had a notice in the paper, just a nucleus of collectors who started to meet regularly. Coin collectors were few at this time; we didn't know anyone else who collected and had trouble organizing.

For years, the club had only seven or eight members at the most. Then, as we became more organized, each member tried to get their friends to join. Nobody was very interested in coin collecting--money was scarce and people had more practical uses for it.

Of course, at that time coin collecting was entirely different than it is today because 98% of the numismatists collected large U.S. cents. Today, large cents have fallen by the wayside and few collectors are interested in them. I can remember, about 10 years later (that would be in the 1940s), we made a survey in the coin club and asked each member what he collected. At that time, two out of about 16 members were not collecting large cents. These two individuals were collecting small cents, along with a few nickels and

LARGE CENTS — BRAIDED HAIR 1840-1857



dimes. There were very few people who collected half dollars and dollars. This simply tied up too much money. This is what today's collectors forget, back in the 30s money was darn scarce!

Today people ask, "If you were collecting way back then, why don't you collect this or that?" Well, everything is relative. When you bought something for \$10 then, today that would be the equivalent of \$60 or \$70. You don't see people buying coins in that price range just to let them tarnish in a drawer. We concentrated on our date sets of large cents. We didn't collect by variety, simply because we didn't know varieties existed.

Some of the early members of the Madison Coin Club were Louis Berger, Earl Clauder and, six or seven years later, Kenneth Hawley and Russell Henderson. Berger was one of the fellows I used to meet with before the club was formed. Rev. Harris was, of course, very active. He specialized in odd and curious and had a large collection of Bryan money, the finest catalogued up to 1940. His odd and curious money was mailed to him by his missionary friends and contacts overseas. The material was just sent to him, never cost him anything. Many of the really nice odd and curious pieces in my collection today--African ring neck money, four dollar copper--came from the Harris sale of 1940.

When the war came in 1941, almost all collecting stopped. Some of our members went away to war or stayed stateside in war-related work. Some of us continued to meet.

In our club's history, we have nearly disbanded four times. We got down to three persons at a meeting in the 1950s. I had to take over several times in order to maintain the club. People can lose interest quite quickly, even today. Membership changes moreso today because they move around more than years ago, so membership changes. We have a few university students in the club now, some quite knowledgeable and very active.

The advent of coin collecting holders and plastics has been quite an influence on the hobby, but the educational emphasis didn't come along until about 1954. The Red Book came out in 1947 but the Scrapbook was with us back in the 30s. The

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American Numismatic Association didn't have much influence on the Madison club through the years. I signed up in 1935 along with Mr. "Kretlow"--his number was 4909 and mine was 4910. This was our first contact with the A.N.A. even though the president was right in Wisconsin at that time. The man's name was Granburg I believe and he was from Oshkosh. In 1939, we had a joint meeting with the Milwaukee club at the old courthouse. About eight or 10 Milwaukee members came up. At that time we planned to have an exchange program and travel back and forth, but this idea never worked itself out.

The very first Madison Coin Club meetings were held in the members' homes. At that time we had about eight or 10 members. We ended meeting about three different places because some members didn't have enough room in their homes. Later, we met at the Earl Evelyn Salon on Mifflin St. for several years, then went to Whitfords on Fairchild St. Next, we grouped at the Dane County Courthouse for about four or five years and from there to the Jackson Clinic for a couple of years. Next it was the University of Wisconsin Historical Building only to move in three years to a tavern meeting room on Regent St. We also met at the YMCA, which we moved from to meet in a variety of places and then returned to the "Y." After that, we went to the Hillside Bank, which is now where the club meets.

TO BE CONTINUED

LARGE CENTS—CLASSIC HEAD 1808-1814



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[] I am 18 years of age or older and applying for membership for the first time. Enclosed is \$4 to cover my dues for the first year.

[] I am not yet 18 years old and am applying for membership under your Wisconsin Young Numismatists affiliate branch. Enclosed is \$2 to cover my dues for the first year. My birth date was _____ 19____.

[] I would like to reinstate my membership. (If you desire to retain your original membership number, please indicate that number _____ and enclose payment for your back dues.)

I currently hold memberships in the following numismatic organizations _____

Signature of Applicant _____

(Memberships are assigned to individuals and coin clubs only. Coin dealers must apply individually, not under their business or incorporated name.)

I would like to recommend the above named individual for membership in the Numismatists of Wisconsin.

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by Arthur F. Giere

the country lawyer

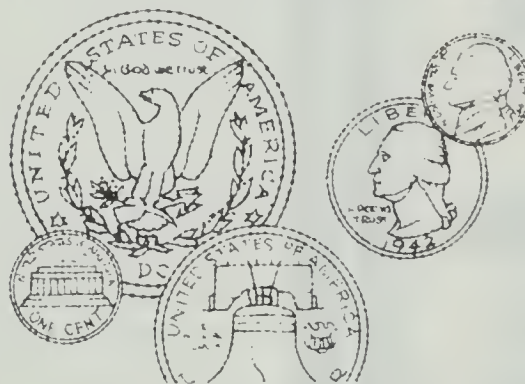
As you all well know, the Country Lawyer has resided for more than half a century in a small village, not far from the mighty Mississippi River, where the people there still attend church on Sundays, stay sober on Saturday nights, and go fishing when the day's work is done. Life for him has been wonderful.

For he has had the privilege of seeing, during his days here, the ancient pyramids of Central America, the bullfights of Mexico, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the colossal Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the palace where the damned Norwegian, Mr. Quisling, was finally executed. And he has visited the home of Ibsen and sailed on Lake Erie.

He has walked on the float Kon Tiki, used by Thor Heyerdahl on his trip across the ocean. He has walked on the famous Battleship Oregon and visited the Frogner Park and lifted the noted Runestone in Alexandria. He has also watched the Sleeping Giant in Thunder Bay, visited the original home of Betsy Ross where the

first U.S. Flag was made, visited the salmon fisheries of Alaska, the cranberry bogs of Wisconsin, and the ancient Giere farmstead in Hallingdal, Norway.

He has been in the ancient Citadel Fortress at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has exhibited coins in the resident homes of the Royal Canadian Mounties at Saskatoon, and has many times been an exhibitor of ancient coins in the Red Carpet Inn in Milwaukee--and he still squibs and eats lutefisk.



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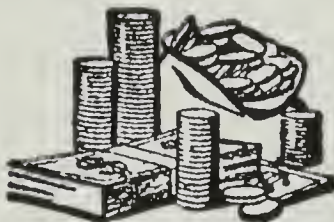


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Dear Editor,

Nice job on the last issue, but you failed in one small detail in the National bank note pictured in Monte's Notes. The note pictured is not the Type-2 small size the story says it is. The charter number for the National Bank of La Crosse does not appear on the note's face. Close, but no cigar.

P.M.S.
Black River Falls

Dear Editor,

I noticed that in your

June issue many articles were written by persons belonging to the WNW. What do these letters stand for?

N.T.B.
Brookfield

Well N.T.B., the initials stand for Wisconsin Numismatic Writers Association. This group seeks to foster and develop a talent for writing among the membership of NOW. What this comes down to mean is pressing stories out of persons who feel awkward at a typewriter or penning out a couple of pages in long-hand. No doubt, every collector has a story to tell about the what, when, where, why and how of his collecting interest. This is the story the WNW seeks from its members. The group seeks the inexperienced writers who want to learn journalistic skills. More information on the group is available through Gerald Johnson, 1921 Chase St. in Wisconsin Rapids 54494.

The best buy in numismatics today is a membership in the ANA. If you fill out the attached application blank, you will be taking a big step toward more knowledge, plus more fun and prestige from your hobby of coin collecting. Detach the application, get the required signature of a member who will recommend you, and mail it with your remittance to:

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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Signature of Proposer ANA No.

Signature of Proposer

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BEST EXHIBITION AWARD

The Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club's first annual Best Exhibition Award for 1977 is presented to Jeff Skrentny (second from left) for his efforts of exhibiting U.S. error coins. Presenting the award is Ed Pawlowski (left), president of the club. Jeff was also the recipient of the 1977 Wisconsin Young Numismatist Award, which entitled him to an all expense paid trip to the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Treasurer Dave Hunsicker (right) presents the club's Presidential Award to Bob Skrentny (second from right) for his six years of service as the club's president.

The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Recreational Center in West Bend.

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One-quarter page.....\$ 35
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One page..... 100

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One-quarter page.....\$10
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